POLITICS

Amendment 2 opponents challenge campaign contribution

By **Ray Flack**
Denver Bureau

DENVER — A $50,000 campaign donation was made illegally to the backers of a ballot proposal that would ban laws granting equal rights protection to homosexuals, opponents of the proposal charged Friday.

The Equal Protection Campaign filed a complaint with the secretary of state's office based on reports filed with the state that list campaign contributions.

The Colorado Springs-based Colorado for Family Values, which supports the measure, shows total contributions of $349,253. For the reporting period from Sept. 6 to Oct. 18, it raised $122,239.

The organization said it has spent $330,567 and has a balance of $18,686.

The Equal Protection Campaign, opposed to Amendment 2, reported it has raised $429,717, including $235,743 in the latest period. To date, they have spent $366,642 and have a balance of $63,075.

The complaint centers on a reported $50,000 contribution to Colorado for Family Values from Bethesda Care Center of Colorado Springs. It charges that the money came from an anonymous out-of-state donor, and says state law requires naming of individual donors.

Bethesda spokesman David Burdine said: "We believe in the principle of Amendment 2, so we were willing to be the conduit for the money."

In addition to Bethesda, the amendment supporters received a $25,000 donation from Fieldstead Co. of Irvine, Calif.

The Equal Protection Campaign received $58,000 from Dr. Lyda Herloff of Denver. The Amendment 2 opponents also were given $24,000 from a fundraiser called Evening for Equal Rights.

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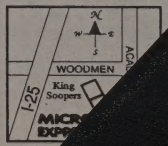

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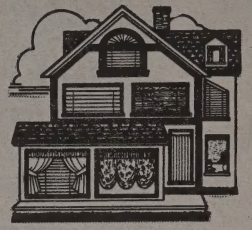

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